

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (presently amended): A forme cylinder for a rotary offset press, said cylinder comprising an axis and a substantially cylindrical circumferential surface for accommodating a printing forme, said cylinder having an axial center and opposed axial ends, said surface being convexly curved so that the diameter of the forme cylinder is greatest in the axial center and smallest at the axial ends, wherein said forme cylinder is a plate cylinder having a cylinder channel extending along said circumferential surface, said channel having a pair of opposed overhangs defining a channel width which is constant over the axial length of said channel.

Claim 2 (original): A forme cylinder as in claim 1 wherein said circumferential surface has a profile which describes a circular arc.

Claim 3 (original): A forme cylinder as a in claim 1 wherein said circumferential surface has a profile which describes a second order parabola.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (presently amended): A forme cylinder as in claim 4 1 further comprising a printing plate having a leading printing plate radius, a trailing printing plate radius, a pair of printing edges having an edge length extending between said radii, and a center having a center length extending between said radii centrally of said edges, said trailing radius being bent along an arc so that said center length is greater than said edge length.

Claim 6 (original): An offset rotary printing press comprising:

a pair of blanket cylinders set against one another for recto and verso printing; and

a pair of forme cylinders set against respective said blanket cylinders, said forme cylinders each comprising an axis and a substantially cylindrical circumferential surface for accommodating a printing forme, each said forme cylinder having an axial center and opposed axial ends, said surface being convexly curved so that the diameter of the forme cylinder is greatest in the axial center and smallest at the axial ends.